DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO
BILL WALDRON AND THE TAFT SCHOOL

#1 1969 CALENDAR

1969

September 16
New Day Boys due by 8:30 A.M.
Old Boys due by 5:00 P.M.

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

First Day of classes

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sudden death of Mr. Sullivan

Bill falls (Father's Day)

Bill pronounced dead

Bill's 16th Birthday

#2 WALDRON MEMORIAL SERVICE

NOTES:

1. Bill Waldron's parents were present at the Vespers memorial service.

2. First mention of a Bill Waldron memorial.

3. "Jerusalem" by William Blake was a favorite hymn sung at Vespers.

4. Taft Master Bill Sullivan had died suddenly the week before. (See next page).

THE TAFT SCHOOL VESPER-MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR
WILLIAM WALDRON, III
6:00 P.M., Monday, November 10, 1969

[excerpted]

Opening Sentences: John C. Esty, Jr., Headmaster

I must now tell you all the very sad news that Bill Waldron died this afternoon in the Waterbury Hospital.

(Mr. Esty went on to tell the packed auditorium the events in some detail, from the moment of the accident right through to the actual kidney transplant operations just preceeding the service. The auditorium was filled with the entire student body, the entire Faculty, many of the staff employees, the Waldron family and friends and even some alumni and townspeople.)

1

And so we have lost Bill Waldron! He was generally quiet in our midst--except with his smaller circle of friends. Yet possibly his less noisy ways had more impact than we might have guessed--at least from the many letters and calls we have received, and even from the presence here of the girls who knew him, too. He was certainly not immune to pop culture--as a visit to his room would indicate.

Possibly his closest friends were those he found through the Dramatic Society--Masque & Dagger. The measure of this may be seen in a note I have just received which indicates the desire of the society to establish a special memorial to Bill, which will be defined later.

2

There may be a meaning for this community--or at least a way we shall have to try to live with the death of Bill. We have all felt--I think--that maybe this Fall we were beginning to transform our "dark, satanic mills" into a "green and pleasant land"--to build a new Jerusalem. Then came Mr. Sullivan's death last week--which affected so many alumni, his colleagues on the Faculty and many seniors. Now Bill Waldron's death affects you all, especially, because he was one of you. So all of us recently have been touched deeply in one way or another.

3

4

Certainly Bill's death requires all of us to be a little more mature--and a little sadder and--a little wiser. I think the significance here is not what a hard time we are having now--but rather what a good thing it was for us to discover some new strengths and possibilities earlier this Fall so that we can be equal to the sadness of Bill Waldron's death, so that we can feel--and cry--and cope--and go on to build our new Jerusalem.

One final thought or meaning about which I feel quite deeply and yet also a bit insecure. This idea and meaning are so new that even hardened, veteran doctors at Waterbury and Yale-New Haven hospitals could not talk clearly about it--and when they did, it was with reddened eyes. Mr. and Mrs. Waldron, at least, never wavered from their conviction that if Bill had to die, then perhaps others might live through the science of organ transplants.

For some of us, Bill's memory will always live. For others who knew him less well, there will certainly always be the memory of these past two days.

But finally--if others live by Bill's death--then for me, resurrection is not just a difficult theological point. More than just a memory of Bill Waldron indeed lives still. And his death--which hurts so much--- has nonetheless become truly a triumph over death.

#3 BILL SULLIVAN OBITUARY

Town Times (Watertown, Conn.), November 6, 1969

Services Held Tuesday For William E. Sullivan

—photo by T. Gipstein

William E. Sullivan

William E. Sullivan, Director of Studies of the Taft School here, died suddenly Saturday in Groton, Mass. Mr. Sullivan was in Groton to watch his son Jay, Captain of the Groton football team, play in Saturday's game against Milton Academy. He collapsed just before the game and died in the Groton Community Hospital at 5:30 p.m., of a massive cerebral hemmorhage.

Mr. Sullivan, 57, came to Taft in 1936 immediately after graduation from Yale and, with the exception of four years service as a Lt. (j.g.) in Naval and Air Combat Intelligence during World War II, had been at the School ever since. He was an instructor in English and was Chairman of the English Department from 1950 to 1965. Appointed Director of Studies in 1956, he was responsible for the academic side of the School's operation and also was charged with the duties of College Admissions Officer.

Although in recent years his administrative duties preempted most of his time, it is as a teacher that Mr. Sullivan will be most remembered. The School yearbook in 1965 carried this appraisal: "As a teacher, Mr. Sullivan possesses rare gifts. His own intense love for his subject provides an atmosphere which makes one of his classes an inspiring experience. His sharp wit and sensitive approach to whatever he teaches set him apart as a truly great schoolmaster." It was significant that he was the first recipient of the School's Mailliard Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1959 and again received the award in 1964.

Born in New York City, son of the late Jeremiah L. and Ethel (Walsh) Sullivan, he was educated in Woodmont and West Haven, Conn. After graduation from West Haven High, he entered Yale in the class of 1936 and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with an Honors Degree in English. He was the first undergraduate recipient of a Kingsley Fellowship and a member of the Elizabethan Club. For many years he was an English Reader at the College Entrance Examination Board and was also a member of the School and College Conference in English, of which he was a past Chairman. He was Chairman of the Publications Board and also a Director of the Association of College Counselors, an Examiner in English of NAIS (The National Assn. of Independent Schools) and a representative of the C.E.E.B. to the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Surviving are his widow, Marietta, and two children, Ann, a Senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Jeremiah Lawrence, II, a Senior at the Groton School. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Donald V. Albee and Mrs. Guy B. Williams both of West Haven, and a brother Jerome, of Los Angeles, California, and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the First Congregational Church at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4. Friends were requested to omit flowers. Contributions may be sent to the William E. Sullivan Memorial Fund at the Taft School.

#4 ESTY LETTER TO PARENTS OF TAFT BOYS

NOTES:

1. Nelson Howard, Taft '25, was friend of the Waldrons and married to Betty Buckingham, a Watertown pioneer whose family built the Warren House.

2. This cover story that Bill "was dismantling a light bar and he touched a hot bulb" is a fabrication, because no one saw Bill fall or knew the reason why he fell. "Dismantling a light bar" is neither stage jargon nor does it describe what Bill was doing: unplugging spotlights on the first electric pipe. There were no "hot bulbs" in the vicinity.

3. "Due to the quick work of boys, faculty…" There was no onstage faculty supervision nor were faculty involved in fetching Dr. Bassford.

4. "He was, in effect, killed instantly…" This is also false because at least while he was still on the school grounds, Bill could breathe without external assistance.

5. "He fell in such a manner as to cause maximum damage" is inconsistent with Bill's athletic prowess.

(1) To Melson Howard

Melson -
This tells the details. The Waldrons and all grandparents are still warmly disposed to Taft. We will start a memorial fund after January 1.
John

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

JOHN C. ESTY, JR.
HEADMASTER

November 12, 1969

TO THE PARENTS OF TAFT BOYS:

I am sure many of you have already heard of the death of our Middler Bill Waldron, but I wanted you to hear this directly from me.

On Saturday night after the play and after the fathers had left, the stage crew was dismantling the sets. The stage trap door was open so that lumber and flats could be thrown to the level below for disposal. (2) Bill Waldron was dismantling a light bar and he touched a hot bulb. (3) An involuntary reflex caused him to jump backward and, tragically, he fell through the trap door. (4) Due to the quick work of boys, faculty, and Dr. Bassford, he was at the Waterbury Hospital Emergency Room within fifteen minutes. We now know, however, that the skull fracture he suffered caused such massive brain damage that he was, in effect, killed instantly. (5) The particularly tragic aspect is that, according to Dr. Bassford, it was incredibly bad luck that he fell in such a manner as to cause maximum damage.

Following regular hospital procedures, Bill was kept alive for thirty-six hours, even though there was no sign of brain activity. On Monday, November 10, the neurosurgeon said there was no hope for any kind of survival, and immediately after he was pronounced dead at 2:30 p.m. an operation was performed to remove his kidneys. Mr. and Mrs. Waldron were most insistent on this procedure, and the two recipients are now recovering successfully at Yale-New Haven Hospital where the transplant operations were performed.

That night we held a special school meeting and service designed to tell the boys all the facts, to honor Bill's memory, and to help the boys deal with this tragically sad and moving event.

As I write this on Wednesday morning, my intuitive feeling is that the boys generally are living with the event with feeling but also with equanimity. I suspect that the new strengths and fine spirit in the School, which have been evident all Fall, have helped considerably.

I shall need your help in strengthening your son's own resources, if you discover by phone or letter that the event still troubles him excessively. The faculty and I have spent many hours with a few of the boys who seemed to need extra help. Please let me know if you detect any residue of upset after next week.

Forgive me for including this in the regular Fathers' Day follow-up letter, but I did want you to know all of this as soon as possible.

Faithfully,

John C. Esty Jr.

JCE/mr

#5 *WATERBURY REPUBLICAN* CLIPPING

1. The *Waterbury Republican* printed more false information: Billy was 15, not 16.

2. Bill fell 10, not 15 feet.

3. The "hot bulb" cover story is repeated here.

Fall Kills Student At Taft

WATERTOWN — A Taft School sophomore died Monday afternoon in Waterbury Hospital of a brain injury suffered in a fall at the school Saturday night.

According to school authorities (1) William L. Waldron, III, 16, was dismantling stage lights following a presentation by the school dramatic society when he (2) touched a hot bulb, stepped back and fell 15 feet through an (3) open trap door, landing head first on the floor of the storage area below.

The youth was taken to Waterbury Hospital according to Dr. Robert Sturman where his heart was kept functioning by means of a respirator until 1:20 p.m. Monday, despite the complete absence of signs of life from the brain.

A school spokesman reported that, immediately following the official declaration of Waldron's death, his kidneys were with the consent of his parents extracted for use in a transplant operation at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Authorities declined to release the names of either the recipients who were described as a 40-year-old housewife and a 20-year-old Waterbury veteran. The patients are "recovering quite well" a hospital spokesman said.

Waldron was the son of William Waldron, II, of Wayzata, Minn., an executive with the Honeywell Corporation.

A memorial service was conducted Monday evening at Taft School with Chaplain Peter Holroyd officiating and Headmaster John Esty delivering the eulogy. Also participating in the service were Len Cowan and Frederick Small who, with Waldron, were members of the school's Masque and Dagger Society.

He was born Nov. 18, 1953 in Wayzata, son of William L. and Sheila (Strong) Waldron Jr.

In addition to his parents of Wayzata, he is survived by his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lucian S. Strong of Waysata; his paternal grandmother, Mrs. W.L. Waldron Sr. of Minneapolis, Minn.; three sisters, Wendy, Lucinda and Stacey Waldron, all of Wayzata.

Memorial services will be held Wednesday at 4 p.m. at the Lakewood Chapel of the Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minn. Alderson Funeral Home, 70 Central Ave., is in charge of arrangements.

#6 MINNEAPOLIS CLIPPINGS

(1) No ladder was involved.

Minneapolis Star-Tribune 11/11/1969

W. L. Waldron III Dies After Fall in Connecticut

William Lovering Waldron III, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Lovering Waldron Jr., Orono, died Monday in Waterbury, Conn., of a skull fracture suffered in a fall from a ladder Saturday at Taft School, Watertown, Conn.

Young Waldron, who would have been 16 next Tuesday, was a second-year student at the school. He was on a crew clearing the auditorium stage following a father's day play when the accident occurred. He fell into a basement area, hitting his head on the floor.

Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Lakewood Chapel.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by three sisters, Wendy, Lucinda and Stacey; and grandparents, Mrs. William L. Waldron, Minneapolis, and Mr. and Mrs. Lucian S. Strong, Orono.

■

Minneapolis Star 11/11/1969

Orono youth dies in fall

A 15-year-old Orono youth who suffered a fractured skull whe nhe fell on the stage Saturday night at the Taft college preparatory school in Watertown, Conn., died Monday in Waterbury Hospital at Waterbury.

He was identified as William L. Waldron III, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Lovering Waldron Jr., Fox Rd., Orono.

Taft school authorities said that young Waldron, a sophomore, was helping to take down scenery after a performance when he fell down a stage trapdoor.

Survivors besides his parents include three sisters, Wendy, Lucinda and Stacey, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lucian S. Strong, Orono, and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Minneapolis.

A memorial service has been scheduled for 4 p.m. Wednesday in Lakewood chapel. The family prefers memorials to the YMCA Camp Warren at Eveleth, Minn., or the Highcroft Country Day School at Wayzata.

#7 ASSOCIATED PRESS CLIPPINGS

① ②

The AP story perpetuated the lie that Bill was 15, not 16 and that he fell 10, not 15 feet.

AP story also ran under the title "Fall from stage fatal to student at Taft School"

Rochester (MINN) Post-Bulletin 11/11/1969

State Student Killed in Mishap In Connecticut

1

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — A 16-year-old private school student died Monday from injuries received when he fell through a stage trapdoor.

William L. Waldron III of Wayzata, Minn., slipped through the trapdoor Saturday while changing stage lights after a dramatic production, according to officials at Taft School in neighboring Watertown.

After the youth was pronounced dead and consent had been obtained from his parents, his kidneys were removed and transplanted in a patient described only as a 40-year-old war veteran from Waterbury.

The youth is survived, besides his parents, by his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lucian S. Strong of Wayzata, his paternal grandmother, Mrs. W. L. Waldron Sr. of Minneapolis, and three sisters, all of Wayzata.

A memorial service was conducted Monday at Taft School. Another will be conducted Wednesday in Minneapolis.

Hartford Courant 11/11/1969

Trapdoor Fall Fatally Injures Minnesota Boy

WATERBURY (AP) — A 16-year-old private-school student died here Monday from injuries suffered when he fell through a stage trapdoor two days earlier.

William L. Waldron III of Wayzata, Minn., slipped through the trapdoor while changing stage lights after a dramatic production, according to officials at Taft School in neighboring Watertown. He fell 15 feet to the floor below and struck his head, they said.

After the youth had been pronounced dead and consent had been obtained from his parents, his kidneys were removed and transplanted in two patients described only as a 40-year-old housewife and a 20-year-old war veteran from Waterbury. They were reported "recovering quite well" according to a spokesman at Yale-New Haven Hospital, where the transplants took place.

Bridgeport Telegram 11/11/1969

2 Receive Kidneys Of Killed Taft Student

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — A 16-year-old private school student's death was followed Monday by use of his kidneys in two transplant operations in New Haven.

2

William L. Waldron III of Wayzata, Minn., was fatally injured Saturday when he fell 15 feet from a stage trapdoor. He had been working with stage lights after a dramatic production at Taft School in Watertown. He suffered a head injury which resulted in his death Monday.

After his death, consent was obtained from his parents, and his kidneys were transplanted in two patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital. They were described only as a 40-year-old housewife and a 20-year-old war veteran from Waterbury. Both were reported "recovering quite well" Tuesday.

LaCrosse (WISC) Tribune 11/12/1969

Plunge Through Stage Trapdoor Kills Youth

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — A 16-year-old private school student died Monday from injuries received when he fell through a stage trapdoor.

William L. Waldron III of Wayzata, Minn., slipped through the trapdoor Saturday while changing stage lights after a dramatic production, according to officials at Taft School in neighboring Watertown.

After the youth was pronounced dead and consent had been obtained from his parents, his kidneys were removed and transplanted in a patient described only as a 40-year-old war veteran from Waterbury.

The youth is survived, besides his parents, by his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lucian S. Strong of Wayzata, his paternal grandmother, Mrs. W. L. Waldron Sr. of Minneapolis, and three sisters, all of Wayzata.

A memorial service was conducted Monday at Taft School. Another will be conducted Wednesday in Minneapolis.

#8 BILL'S DRIVERS LICENSE (LEARNER'S)

SIGN
in ink
HERE
William L. Waldron III
Not Valid Until Signed
Lic. No. W-436-887-550-883
2-1-70
Expires
WILLIAM LOWELL WALDRON
1880 FOX ST
WAYZATA MINN 55391
Birth Date
11-18-53
Height
5-7
Weight
130
RESTRICTIONS

#9 MR. BARNARD LETTER TO WALDRONS

1. Mr. Barnard, Taft class of '63, was a second year master described in the 1970 yearbook as Development Officer and Admissions Officer. The year before, he had taught English.

2. Was it inappropriate for Mr. Barnard to spend his vacation at the home of a student? "Hope to do a lot of hunting and relaxing and very little serious thinking."

   "A number of us are really exhausted and I, for one, am really looking forward to a vacation."

3. Was it insensitive for Mr. Barnard to write, two weeks after the accident, "Hope all is well with the Waldrons"?

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

1

November 25, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Waldron:

Slowly but surely we are getting things in the mail to you. A trunk and packing barrel have been sent by Railway Express and the suitcase will be on its way, also by Railway Express, shortly. I couldn't figure out the combination so I took out the pin on the latch — that is the best way for you go get into it if you don't have the combination. We still have the record box and records, the red strong box, the mirror and the swivel-type book holder. I will send these as soon as I can find the right size boxes.

2 I'm leaving for North Carolina tomorrow morning to spend Thanksgiving with the family of one of my advisees. Hope to do a lot of hunting and relaxing and very little serious thinking. There are a number of us who are really exhausted and I, for one, am really looking forward to a vacation.

3 Hope all is well with the Waldrons.

Best regards,

Bill

Bailey S. Barnard

BSB:el

#10 JOHN ESTY LETTER TO THE WALDRONS

(1) Lucian Strong and his wife Virginia were Bill's maternal (Honeywell) grandparents.

(2) "I just heard from Dr. Sturman…" indicates that Bill's doctor was in direct contact with the school.

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

JOHN C. ESTY, JR.
HEADMASTER

November 25, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Bill and Sheila,

As you see, I am enclosing a special copy for you of the service we had for Bill. As I read it over, it makes the old hurt come back again, and then in a curious way I find that I miss both of you. Thank you so much for writing as you both did. I want you to know in return that I appreciated the strength I got from both of you more than I can say. Somehow the only thing that made it possible to live with the whole enormous event was the fact that we were all together.

(1) In this same mail you will probably also find an envelope intended for Lucian and Gin. I gather that they have now gone to Florida, so possibly you could forward it to the right address.

(2) I just heard a few days ago from Dr. Sturman who reported that the two kidney transplant patients were both doing extremely well. That, of course, is one thing that keeps me going!

Please, do, either or both of you, drop in to see us when you come back East. It would mean a lot to all of us.

As ever,

JCE/mr
Enc.

#11A BUSINESS MANAGER TO THE WALDRONS

1. Bill was in school 46 days, not 53.* (See calendar at top of this article).

2. Despite the fact that Mr. Waldron "took the Tuition Refund Insurance on Bill," Taft refunded his father less than fifty percent of his check for $1904 (see next page), based on the argument that Billy had been educated pro-rata prior to his death.

3. Business Manager Dick Pratt utilizes a lot of arithmetical double-talk, even bringing in charges for the next semester to confuse the issues.

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*School week is six days and includes Saturdays.

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS MANAGER

22 December 1969

Mr. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Mr. Waldron,

(1) As you may recall, you took the Tuition Refund Insurance on Bill. He was in school 53 days of 215 which pro-rates to a credit of $2,411.12 against the yearly Tuition and Board Fee of $3200.00.

(2) I am enclosing a final billing and a check for $869.25. The (3) arithmetic is rather complex, but I will try to explain. We have added the $1600 charge for the second half of the yearly tuition and allowed the credit of $2411.12. Though not covered by the Tuition Refund Insurance, I am including an additional credit of $120 against the annual fees for Infirmary and Laundry.

There are a couple of other tricky entries too. Bill cashed a $1.85 check at the school, but his account was closed before they could lodge it against his account. Also, he made checks to Tate Ewell and Peter Miller which we cashed, but were not paid by the bank and returned to us. We made good on all three checks and charged them to your account (see entry November 25, 1969 of $17.90 for returned checks). Apparently, Peter received an additional check from Mrs. Waldron. He turned it in to us. We banked it and credited your bill. (See entry December 22, 1969 of $4.05). Enclosed are the three checks in question.

It is pretty complex, I know, but I hope the foregoing helps you analyze the bill.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Pratt

Richard T. Pratt
Business Manager

RTP/ep
enclosures

#11B BUSINESS MANAGER TO THE WALDRONS

WALDRON, WILLIAM LOVERING, III (B'71)

NAME Mr. William L. Waldron, Jr.
ADDRESS 1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

STUDENT'S NAME

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHARGE	CREDIT	BALANCE
AUG20 69	1 ORAL ADAPTOR	1.00		
	PRESCRIPTION			
	MEDI HALER EPI REFILL	3.65		1,908.65
SEP15 69	CHECK		1,904.00	4.65
OCT30 69	BKS Books	51.75		
	ST Store	2.59		
	AL Allowance	15.00		
	SUMMER STORAGE	11.00		
	CL Dry Cleaners	11.45		
	LAUNDRY	1.00		
	TIMES SUB. New York Times	16.20		113.64
NOV25 69	CHECKS RETURNED FROM BANK	17.90		131.54
NOV25 69	BKS	20.45		
	ST	1.62		
	AL	9.00		
	CL	12.29		
	LAUNDRY	2.25		
	R.A. BUS	.50		
	DANCE BUS	2.55		179.30
NOV25 69	TUITION & BOARD END HALF	1,600.00		1,779.30
DEC22 69	CREDIT TUITION REFUND		2,411.42	632.
DEC22 69	CHECK		113.64	74
DEC22 69	CHECK--PETER MILLER-TO REPLACE CHECK RET'D FROM BANK		4.85	74
Dec. 22/69	additional credit inf. fee, laundry		120.00	869.25 cr.

THE REYNOLDS & REYNOLDS CO.
M-7972

LITHO IN U.S.A.

THE TAFT SCHOOL CORPORATION
WATERTOWN, CONN.

(1) Bill Dobson was Bill's Godfather.

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

JOHN C. ESTY, JR.
HEADMASTER

February 11, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Bill and Sheila,

Sorry to be so long getting back to you on the idea of the memorial for Billy. You can appreciate that I really wanted to go lightly on this until I thought the time was right. Incidentally, the one specific gift we have is from Nelson Howard, and I am enclosing a photocopy of the letter he sent with his gift. I have acknowledged this myself, but I thought you would like to see his letter. When we get the memorial set up, I will send you a list of everyone who gives along with their addresses. I will have acknowledged each of these myself, but you and Bill would probably like to do the same yourselves.

The Masque and Dagger Society and a number of Bill's classmates are just waiting for the word from me in order to begin their contributions. Before we actually determine the memorial itself, I think I would like to get a better idea of what the total gift amount (1) is likely to be. Bill Dobson reported that you wanted it to be quite modest and unostentatious. I would suspect that our total might well be over $250. I should think the Taft boys alone would hit $100 or $150. Could you give me an idea of which of your friends and relatives you would like to have included in the mailing list from the School, and maybe even try to make some guesses about the amount. We can then establish a good memorial project which will be within realistic limits. The next step would be to notify everyone we think might be interested in a mailing which I would check out with both of you.

I am asking Biff Barnard to engineer all of this and a first step will be to check with Masque and Dagger to find out what piece of equipment or gear would be most helpful for their operations. It would then be certainly possible to mount a modest plaque indicating that it is a memorial to Billy. I should think that if we could raise something between $250 and $500, we might like to endow an annual prize for the boy who makes the greatest contribution to stage craft each year. This would both be a nice memorial and would also be a fine stimulus to the boys back stage.

Bill Dobson also reported that you want very much to stay on The Taft School mailing list, and I can assure you that nothing would give me greater pleasure. I do hope that our paths will cross

#12 ESTY LETTER TO WALDRONS PG. 2

(1) That Bill "loomed larger… than any of us suspected" refers back to Esty's inaccurate Memorial Service assessment of Bill as "generally quiet in our midst."

whenever you are East or whenever I am in your neck-of-the-woods.

Incidentally, as you see, I am enclosing the latest Alumni BULLETIN which reports Billy's death in "News of the School" and also the issue of the PAPYRUS with the article by Ken Saverin. Quite clearly, Billy loomed larger in the hearts and minds of our boys than any of us suspected. (1)

As ever,

JCE/mr
Enc.

#12 ESTY LETTER TO WALDRONS PG. 3

(1) The fact that Bill was a “promising pole vaulter” underscores the inconsistency that “he fell in such a manner as to cause maximum damage.”

Bill Waldron

William L. Waldron, III, a fifteen year old middler from Wayzata, Minnesota, died November 10th from injuries received in a fall two days before.

Bill was dismantling the stage set following the Masque and Dagger production of *The Mandrake* when he fell.

Mr. Esty announced Bill's death to the middlers and to the Masque and Dagger Society on Monday afternoon. That evening, at vespers, a memorial service was held for Bill. In addition to Chaplain Peter Holroyd and Mr. Esty, seniors Fred Small and Len Cowan, members of the Masque and Dagger Society and leads in *The Mandrake,* participated in the service. Len read the 23rd Psalm and Fred sang the folk song, "Turn, Turn, Turn."

The Masque and Dagger Society is placing in Bingham Auditorium a plaque in Bill's memory. It is also establishing in his memory an award presented to a boy new to the Masque and Dagger Society who has contributed most to that organization.

(1) In addition to his activities with the Masque and Dagger Society, Bill was one of the School's most promising pole vaulters.

Ken Saverin, a close friend of Bill's paid tribute to his friend in a recent issue of the *Papyrus*: "Bill lived more of life than most of us have. His constant energy could never fail to inspire those around him. I think that all of us will remember him as a great friend."

#12 ESTY LETTER TO WALDRONS PG. 4

The editors and staff of the PAPYRUS would like to extend their deepest condolences to the family and friends of Bill Waldron.

Bill Waldron: A Recollection

by Ken Saverin

We were sitting in the common room at about ten o'clock at night. No one could sleep that night. We all knew that Bill was gone but no one could believe it. The common room was filled with about thirty people, but only five of us spoke. Only five of us had really known Bill. The others in the room only listened in silence, trying to understand something of the boy who had just died.

Bob Golfman

Bob: "There isn't a soul in this school who had the guts to do some of the things that that kid did. I don't think he went to sleep once on a Saturday night when he was here. Man, did he ever love to take all-nighters."

Mike Castillo

Mike: "Jesus, you're not kidding. He always used to come into my room at about 11:00 o'clock, and wake me up for those all-nighters."

Bruce Maclean

Bruce: "Remember that time that Erlanger caught him and told him to go back to his room. Bill went down the stairs, waited for five minutes, and then went back up. Erlanger caught him and gave him one grade. Of course Bill got it taken off."

Ken Saverin

Ken: "I walked downtown with him a lot at about five o'clock in the morning. He always wanted to have breakfast at Mike's — what a nut!"

A few more kids entered the room. No one could sleep that night. Even if a guy didn't know Bill, he had to feel a little lost after his death. Everyone seemed to be day-dreaming. Their expressions were stoic.

Bob: "If that kid liked you, he would really help you. He was loyal to his friends."

Dave Albert

Dave: "He loved to work on the stage. It was one of the few things here that interested him."

Kids started to disperse from the room, but the five of us stayed, reminiscing over what were now our experiences. Bill had done so many exciting things. I thought that we would never run out of things to say about him.

Bruce: "Bill was a hard fellow to know and understand. Few people knew him, yet he wasn't shy. His friends knew him to be an extrovert. He generated a lot of excitement."

Ken: "Bill loved people. We took a lot of permissions and even a weekend together in New York. He loved the wide variety of people that you meet there."

The thought of New York brought back a lot of memories to my mind. I've never taken a permission to New York without Bill. The weekend we spent together at my home showed me much of Bill's personality. He never liked to stand still; he wanted to keep moving into new things. That was what was so special about Bill.

Bill lived more of life than most of us have. His constant energy could never fail to inspire those around him. I think that all of us will remember him as a great friend.

#13 MR. BARNARD LETTER TO WALDRONS

1. Mr. Barnard responds to the Waldrons after a two month lapse.

2. Does Mr. Barnard equate his father's fatal heart attack at a ski resort with Bill's death at Taft?

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

February 20, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Waldron:

(1) I really feel badly for not having written sooner especially after your nice note of late November and your Christmas card.

To add tragedy to tragedy, I had one of my own during Christmas. My family - Mother, Father, young sister and brother, and I - for some time has been planning a ski trip to Switzerland for this past Christmas vacation and after this past Fall I was really looking forward to getting away from it all. We all arrived in Switzerland on December 23 and the (2) next day my Father had a heart attack on the ski slopes and died. We came home immediately and so as you well know things were very strenuous and I didn't get much of a vacation. All seems to be going rather smoothly but as you know, also, every once in a while you think about things and it is hard to believe that the old guy is gone. Anyway, I now know more than ever your feeling of loss.

I'm writing also to follow up on John Esty's letter of February 11. I am getting together with the Masque and Dagger to find out what they have been thinking of as some sort of memorial for Bill. Before we really begin to lay plans, though, I would love to get some of your ideas and to find out what your thinking is in regard to an appropriate project and memorial.

Also, as John suggested, it would be a big help if you could give us an idea of which of your friends and relatives you would like to have included in the mailing list from the School.

I have had trouble finding Bill's small suitcase. Hopefully, it will be easier during Spring Vacation when the boys have taken most of their suitcases home. I will make another search then.

I hope you all are well. Please write when you have a chance.

Best regards,

Bill

Bailey S. Barnard
Development Officer

BSB:el

#14 ESTY LETTER TO WALDRONS

1. Despite the fact that the school did not fully refund Mr. Waldron's tuition payment, he nevertheless donated $100 to the memorial.

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

JOHN C. ESTY, JR.
HEADMASTER

March 2, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Bill and Sheila:

Thank you, Bill, for your letter. I am glad you enjoyed the articles and that you want to stay on the mailing list. Biff Barnard has reserved a copy of the Annual and will send it to you when they come out.

Biff has been working with the boys in an attempt to come up with an appropriate and meaningful memorial for Bill as a member of the Masque and Dagger Society and of the Class of 1972. When they decide on something, they will publicize it here at School to give the entire community an opportunity to make contributions. I'm sure Biff will be in touch with you.

(1) Your check is certainly appreciated and will get us started toward a fine memorial.

Sincerely,

JCE:el

Katharine joins me in sending our very special thoughts to you both,

J.

#15 DR. STURMAN LETTER TO WALDRONS

OLOGICAL SURGERY

ROBERT H. STURMAN, M. D.
1211 WEST MAIN STREET
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

TELEPHONE 755-6283

3 March 1970

Mr. & Mrs. William Waldron, Sr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Waldron:

In the past few days I have been in telephone contact with the Yale New Haven Medical Center concerning the status of the recipients of the kidney transplants.

I am pleased to report that both patients are doing very well and have returned to their usual way of life, having been quite crippled by their disease prior to the kidney donation. The report indicates that these people are now leading very normal lives taking care of their families and back to gainful employment. One of these recipients was refractive to renal dialysis and, therefore, doomed before the transplant. She is now doing very well and is back at her work as a housewife and raising children.

Mrs. Sturman joins me in sending kindest personal regards to you and your family.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Sturman

R. H. Sturman, M.D.

RHS:pn

#16 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS PG. 1

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

April 28, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Bill and Sheila:

I apologize for being so long in writing.

Working with Len Cowan and Bob Foreman of the Masque and Dagger and Rick Parish and Ken Saverin of the Class of 1972 we have come up with what we feel is an appropriate and unpretentious memorial for Bill. Before we announce it to the School, though, I wanted to check with you.

Attached is what we came up with and what we would like to send out to the Taft Community - both faculty and students.

Let me try to answer a couple of questions you may have. First, the boys felt strongly that it should be The Bill Waldron Memorial rather than the William Waldron Memorial because he was a "Bill" not a "William". Second, the wording is flexible enough to handle any possibility - but specific enough to focus on Bill's interests.

Bob Foreman and a number of other boys already have been working on the sound console and have shown me the plans. I must say I am quite impressed and understand it is something that is really needed. In its practicality, it is an appropriate memorial to Bill.

Would you please let me know at your early convenience if this meets with your approval. As soon as I hear from you, we will send it out and keep you informed as to the results. I would appreciate any comments you may have if it does not meet your approval.

My very best regards to you both and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bailey S. Barnard
Development Officer

BSB:el
encl.

#16 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS PG. 2

THE BILL WALDRON MEMORIAL

AWARDED ANNUALLY TO THAT MEMBER OF THE TAFT STUDENT BODY, WITH PREFERENCE TO A MEMBER OF THE MIDDLE CLASS, WHO THROUGH HIS INTEREST IN THE STAGE HAS CONTRIBUTED THE MOST TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF DRAMA AT TAFT AS WAS EXEMPLIFIED BY BILL WALDRON, CLASS OF 1972.

This will be the wording on a plaque that will be placed on the back wall of Bingham Auditorium as a lasting memorial to Bill Waldron both as a member of the Class of 1972 and as a member of the Masque and Dagger Society. The recipient will be selected by the Stage Manager in consultation with the Masque and Dagger Council and a suitable award will be made each year at graduation time.

Also, because of Bill's interest in the stage, the Masque and Dagger Society would like to build a new sound console as a practical and appropriate memorial to him.

In the hope that as members of the Taft Community you might want to participate in this small tribute to the memory of Bill Waldron, we are writing to inform you about this memorial and to give you the opportunity to make a contribution to it.

Checks should be made payable to the Taft School - Bill Waldron Memorial and put in P.O. Box #50. Students may charge contributions to their accounts in the Business Office.

If there are any questions please feel free to see one of us.

Thank you in advance for your considering a contribution to this memorial to Bill.

Len Cowan
Bob Foreman
Rick Parish
Ken Saverin
Biff Barnard

#17 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS PG. 1

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

June 4, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Bill and Sheila:

Enclosed is a copy of the note that we sent to the entire Taft community. Because this came so late in the year, the immediate dollar response has not been as good as I would have liked. However, quite a few people, particularly members of Bill's class, have said they will send money in during the summer. I'll keep you informed in that regard.

The Masque and Dagger did pick a recipient for the Award. He is Middler, Peter Byerly, who, by the way, reminds me a lot of Bill and was a friend of Bill. In case you're interested his address is:

c/o Frederick N. Byerly
Washington, Connecticut 06793

Generally, the year has been as good as it could have been with the various tragedies. It is sort of a relief to have all the kids gone now and I'll be able to get a lot more work done but I have to admit, I do miss having them around.

I'll be here all summer but plan to get to California for a couple of weeks in late August.

Under separate cover I have sent a copy of this year's Annual

Hope your European trip was good. Your plans sounded like lots of fun.

Keep in touch.

Best regards,

Bailey S. Barnard
Development Officer

BSB:el

#17 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS PG. 2

May 12, 1970

THE BILL WALDRON MEMORIAL

AWARDED ANNUALLY TO THAT MEMBER OF THE TAFT STUDENT BODY, WITH PREFERENCE TO A MEMBER OF THE MIDDLE CLASS, WHO THROUGH HIS INTEREST IN THE STAGE HAS CONTRIBUTED THE MOST TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF DRAMA AT TAFT AS WAS EXEMPLIFIED BY BILL WALDRON, CLASS OF 1972.

This will be the wording on a plaque that will be placed on the back wall of Bingham Auditorium as a lasting memorial to Bill Waldron both as a member of the Class of 1972 and as a member of the Masque and Dagger Society. The recipient will be selected by the Stage Manager in consultation with the Masque and Dagger Council and a suitable award will be made each year at graduation time.

Also, because of Bill's interest in the stage, the Masque and Dagger Society would like to build a new sound console as a practical and appropriate memorial to him.

In the hope that as members of the Taft Community you might want to participate in this small tribute to the memory of Bill Waldron, we are writing to inform you about this memorial and to give you the opportunity to make a contribution to it.

If there are any questions please feel free to see one of us.

Thank you in advance for your considering a contribution to this memorial to Bill.

Len Cowan
Bob Foreman
Rich Parish
Ken Saverin
Biff Barnard

#18 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS PG. 1

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

October 2, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Bill and Sheila:

As usual all is very hectic around here. We're off to another year that looks like it will be a good one!

I had a busy summer re-organizing some things around here and getting use to being Director of Development but did manage to get out to California for three relaxing weeks. I trust you had a great summer.

In my last letter I mentioned that I would keep you informed as to how Bill's memorial fund was doing. In July I sent the attached note to all of Bill's classmates and we got quite a good response. I'm enclosing a list of the boys who did make contributions for your information.

A total of $668.06 was received for Bill's memorial. The Masque and Dagger spent $315.06 on a great new sound console. I spent $91.10 on a plaque that we will put on the back wall of the Auditorium facing Lincoln Lobby. It will read;

BILL WALDRON MEMORIAL
FOR EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION
TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF
DRAMA AT TAFT

There will be 40 name strips on it and the first one will be engraved with Peter Byerly's name.

The balance in the Fund now is $161.90. It is our hope to bring that total up to something like $250.00 which would be enough to endow both a prize for the recipient each year -- it will be a book on various aspects of drama - and the cost of engraving the recipient's name on the plaque.

#18 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS PG. 2

1. Is it audacious for Mr. Barnard to ask Mr. Waldron to donate another $100 to the memorial? *There is no record that the school itself donated to the memorial.*

2. Mr. Barnard was promoted to Director of Development.

(1) Because I really want Bill's memorial to be meaningful, I am writing to ask if you would be willing to contribute another $100.00 to the Fund to insure that Bill's memory will be a part of Taft forever. This would mean a lot to me and to Bill's friends here.

Please let me know how all the Waldrons are.

My very best to you both.

Sincerely,

(2) Bailey S. Barnard
Director of Development

BSB:el
encl.

#18 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS PG. 3

Contributions to the William L. Waldron, III Memorial Fund - From

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Williams
Mr. William A. Jacobs
Mr. & Mrs. John Esty
Mr. & Mrs. Henry P. Stearns
Mr. Bailey S. Barnard
Mr. Edward Herrlinger,III
Mr. Jackson Goodwin Bennett
Mr. Gerard R. LeTendre
Mr. Miguel A. Castillo
Mr. Robert McI. Kest
Mr. Bruce C. Maclean
Mr. F. James Neil
Mr. Bruce W. Harvey
Mr. John G. Taft
Mr. Charles Wochomurka
Mr. Peter J. Fricker
Mr. James W. Cobbs, Jr.
Mr. Robert S. Golfman
Mr. Thomas P. Santopietro
Mr. William J. Wolfgang
Mr. Jesse L. Boynton
Mr. Erik L. Kitchen
Mr. John A. Morgan, Jr.
Mr. Dean Tseretopoulos
Mr. Peter C. Byerly
Mr. Charles H. Travis

#18 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS PG. 4

July 10, 1970

TO: Members of the Taft Class of 1972

FROM: Mr. Barnard

RE: Bill Waldron Memorial

Toward the end of the year many of you told me that you would be interested in making a contribution to the Bill Waldron Memorial but that you would not have any money until Summer. I have been disappointed by the number of contributions but was encouraged by the number of people who did express a desire to give.

I am enclosing a return envelope in the hope that, although you were unable to give at School, you would like to make a contribution now.

Please make checks payable to the Taft School - Bill Waldron Memorial or if you send cash, please indicate that it is for the Bill Waldron Memorial and give your name.

If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch with me.

Thanks in advance for your gift honoring your classmate.

BSB:el

#19 MR. BARNARD TO WALDRONS

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

October 20,1970

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Bill and Sheila:

Thank you for your quick response to my letter and above all thanks for your additional contribution to Bill's Memorial Fund. The plaque is now hung and looks great! The $161.90 plus your $100 will be placed in a special endowment fund - the income from which will both pay for the book prize for each year's recipient and for the engraving of the recipient's name on the plaque. This means an awful lot to me and I know it does to Bill's friends here! Thanks!

Glad to hear Wendy likes Farmington. They have quite an attractive campus, I think, and seems like a great school.

Please do come visit when you are here in the Spring. I would love to see you.

Keep in touch and I look forward to seeing you in the Spring.

Best regards,

Bailey S. Barnard
Director of Development

BSB:gs

P.S. I am enclosing a gift receipt form just in case it would be helpful for your tax records.

#20 ESTY LETTER TO WALDRONS

(1) Apparently, the Waldrons had received "a problematical letter" from the school. Was this why Mr. Esty asked to see Mr. Barnard's recent correspondence with the Waldrons? (First paragraph.)

1970-71 was Mr. Barnard's first and last year as Director of Development and his last year as a member of the faculty. After leaving Taft, he pursued a career outside education.

THE TAFT SCHOOL
WATERTOWN
CONNECTICUT
06795

JOHN C. ESTY, JR.
HEADMASTER

October 28, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Waldron, Jr.
1880 Fox Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Bill and Sheila,

Biff Barnard has shown me his recent correspondence with you, and I just wanted to say hi and add my thanks to his for the extra amount to Bill's Memorial Fund.

I was interested to learn that your daughter is at Miss Porter's. I am not sure what friends or relatives you have in this neck-of-the-woods, but if your gal ever needs a local home base for extra sleep or meals or just to get away from it all, we would love to have her at our house. Also, if you get any problematical letters, please let me know if we can help or check anything out. (1)

I was pleased to read in your note to Biff that you might be coming East for the parents' week end at Miss Porter's. Please do come by to see us. We also have a comfortable twin-bedded room, if you need lodgings at any time.

As ever,

JCE/mr

#21 CONTINUED USE OF STAGE TRAPS

(1) That no changes were made in backstage operations as a result of Bill's death is grotesquely illustrated by the use of the trap doors as a dramatic death hatch, two years later and while Mr. Esty was still in charge.

Town Times (Watertown, Conn.)
February 17, 1972

Annual Mothers' Day Activities Slated At Taft

[excerpt]

Highlights of the evening will be performances by Taft's musical and drama organizations.

The Masque and Dagger Society will cap the evening's activities with a farce entitled "Black Comedy" in the School's Bingham Auditorium.

"Sadly, reading your material, I was drawn to memories of Taft tragedies, including the one of the young man who fell to his death through an open trap. That was the year before I arrived, I believe. Ironically, two years later, as a Junior I performed in a staging of "Black Comedy", staged by visiting Professor Rory Stuart, in which I (1) had to enter and fall through an open trap door onto a mattress below. I can still remember all the dramatic memories in the air of what had happened on stage, in that very same place."

(Email from Lorenzo Mariani '73 to Bob Foreman, 2/16/2016)

118 BLACK COMEDY

(*But as he says this* BAMBERGER *turns and falls into the open trap door.* SCHUPPANZIGH *slams it to with his foot.*)